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For Immediate Release
July 21, 2004

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Governor signs Sen. Bishop's Children's Protection Registry

LANSING – Sen. Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, today announced the signing of his bill to create the Michigan Children's Protection Registry, which is specifically intended to empower parents and protect children from online pornography.

Public Act 241, sponsored by Bishop, allows parents to register their minor child's electronic contact points such as e-mail address, instant-messenger address, cell phone and text pager, as well as allow educational institutions to register their domain name.

"This law will give parents, law enforcement and prosecutors, the ability to protect children from the predators that are responsible for the ever-growing deluge of unsolicited and inappropriate e-mail that plague the internet," Bishop said. "This measure can't completely solve the problem, but it is a meaningful step in the right direction."

Last year, 70 percent of all spam sent via instant message was pornographic in nature. With a projected 4 billion unsolicited commercial instant messages being sent this year, children's daily exposure to pornography is being increased exponentially. Equally true is that the estimated revenue from gambling services and pornographic content sent to mobile devices in the United States is projected to be more than \$6 billion by 2006.

Michigan is only the second state in the country to take such drastic measures to empower parents to protect their children. Bishop's bill serves as a template for other states to adopt and has even received the accolades of policy makers in Europe, where Bishop was asked to give testimony on matters of public policy before a special committee of the British House of Commons and a technology committee in Geneva, Switzerland.

"Very clearly, SPAM and the misuse of the internet by predators is a major problem worldwide and it is therefore, a matter of fundamental importance for all governments to remain vigilant in developing ways of protecting its citizens, especially children," Bishop said. "This is a matter that necessitates and deserves our immediate and undivided attention."

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